



A COMMUNITY REFLECTING GOD'S LOVE WITH A PLACE AT THE TABLE FOR EVERYONE

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH

1st Sunday of Advent, November 30, 2025

Pr. Ben Colahan, preaching

PRELUDE

Esquisses Byzantines: VIII. Noël | Henri Mulet

WELCOME

Pr. Ben Colahan

GATHERING HYMN

ELW 266 | All Earth is Hopeful | v. 1, 3



To - da la tie - rra es - pe - ra al Sal - va - dor
1 All earth is hope - ful, the Sav - ior comes at last!
2 Peo - ple of Is - rael, you heard the proph - et tell;
3 Moun - tains and val - leys will have to be pre - pared;
4 We first saw Je - sus a ba - by in a crib.



y el sur - co a - bier - to, la ob - ra del Se - ñor; es el
Fur - rows lie o - pen for God's cre - a - tive task; this, the
"A vir - gin moth - er will bear Em - man - u - el"; she con -
new high - ways o - pened, new pro - to - cols de - clared. Al - most
This same Lord Je - sus to - day has come to live in our



mun - do que lu - cha por la li - ber - tad, re -
la - bor of peo - ple who strug - gle to see how
ceived him, "God with us," our broth - er, whose birth re -
here! God is near - ing, in beau - ty and grace! All
world; he is pres - ent, in neigh - bors we see our



cla - ma jus - ti - cia y bus - ca la ver - dad. dar - nos li - ber - tad.
God's truth and jus - tice set ev - 'ry - bod - y free.
stores hope and cour - age to chil - dren of this earth.
clear ev - 'ry gate - way, in haste, come out in haste!
Je - sus is with us, and ev - er sets us free.

GREETING

Pr. Ben Colahan

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

Pr. Ben Colahan

CALL) Long-expected God,

RESP) we confess that we look to ourselves for the peace and security only you can provide. We reach for swords and spears, reluctant to release our grip on the ways of war. We become impatient while waiting and weary of keeping awake. Free us from self-reliance, and teach us to live in harmony with our neighbors. Increase our trust in God's timing, and awaken us to your advent among us, that we may abound in the hope you have promised.

Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pr. Ben Colahan

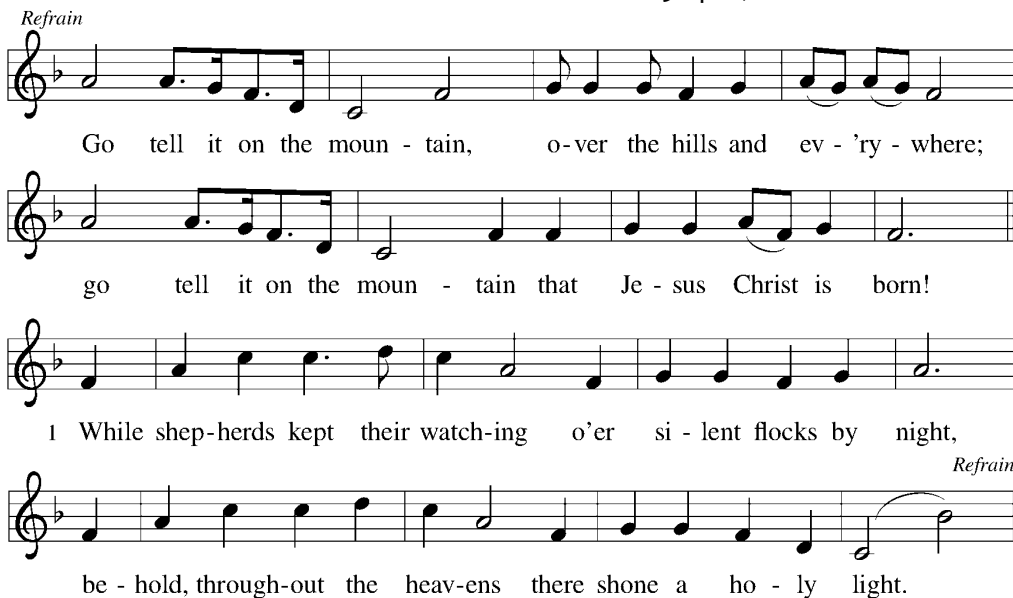
CHILDREN'S SERMON

Josh Edwards

CHILDREN'S RESPONSE

ELW 290 | *Go, Tell It on the Mountain* | v. 1

Refrain



Go tell it on the moun - tain, o-ver the hills and ev - 'ry - where;
go tell it on the moun - tain that Je - sus Christ is born!
1 While shep-herds kept their watch-ing o'er si - lent flocks by night,
Refrain
be - hold, through-out the heav-ens there shone a ho - ly light.

Text: African American spiritual, refrain; John W. Work Jr., 1872–1925, stanzas, alt.
Music: GO TELL IT, African American spiritual

FIRST READING

Isaiah 2:1-5

Craig Fellner

¹ The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem. ² In days to come the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established as the highest of the mountains and shall be raised above the hills; all the nations shall stream to it. ³ Many peoples shall come

and say, “Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob, that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths.” For out of Zion shall go forth instruction and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. ⁴ He shall judge between the nations and shall arbitrate for many peoples; they shall beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation; neither shall they learn war any more. ⁵ O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the Lord!

CALL) Word of God, word of life.

RESP) Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Psalm 122 | Music: Michel Guimont

SUNG RESP) I rejoiced when I heard them say: let us go to the house of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

ELW 257 | *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* | v. 1

1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som cap - tive
Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here
un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
Em - man - u - el shall come to you, O Is - ra - el.

Text: *Psalterium Canticum Catholicorum*, Köln, 1710; tr. composite
Music: VENI EMMANUEL, French processional, 15th cent.
Text ss. 2, 6, 7 © 1997 Augsburg Fortress

GOSPEL

Matthew 24:36-44

Pr. Ben Colahan

CALL) The holy gospel according to Matthew.

RESP) Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said to the disciples,] ³⁶ “About that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³⁷ For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. ³⁸ For as in the days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, ³⁹ and they knew nothing

until the flood came and swept them all away, so, too, will be the coming of the Son of Man.
40 Then two will be in the field; one will be taken, and one will be left. 41 Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken, and one will be left. 42 Keep awake, therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. 43 But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. 44 Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.”

CALL) The gospel of the Lord.
RESP) Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

?

Pr. Ben Colahan

HYMN OF THE DAY

ELW 715 | Christ, Be Our Light



1 Long - ing for light, we wait in dark - ness. Long - ing for
2 Long - ing for peace, our world is trou - bled. Long - ing for
3 Long - ing for food, man - y are hun - gry. Long - ing for
4 Long - ing for shel - ter, man - y are home - less. Long - ing for
5 Man - y the gifts, man - y the peo - ple, man - y the



truth, we turn to you. Make us your own,
hope, man - y de - spair. Your word a - lone
wa - ter, man - y still thirst. Make us your bread,
warmth, man - y are cold. Make us your build - ing,
hearts that yearn to be - long. Let us be ser - vants

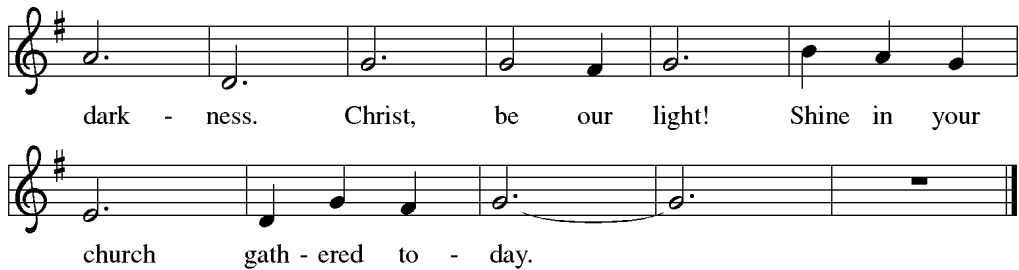


your ho - ly peo - ple, light for the world to see.
has pow'r to save us. Make us your liv - ing voice.
bro - ken for oth - ers, shared un - til all are fed.
shel - ter - ing oth - ers, walls made of liv - ing stone.
to one an - oth - er, signs of your king - dom come.

Refrain



Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the



PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Rev. William Stomski

Sung Response: ELW 262 | *Wait for the Lord*

SUNG RESP) Wait for the Lord, whose day is near. Wait for the Lord: be strong, take heart!

SHARING OF THE PEACE

Pr. Ben Colahan

CALL) The peace of Christ be with you all.

RESP) And also with you.

WELCOMING OF VISITORS

Pr. Ben Colahan

OFFERING

Let There Be Peace on Earth | Sy Miller & Jill Jackson, arr.
Nancy Lau

If parents would like their children in communion, please get them during this time.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

CALL) The Lord be with you.

RESP) And also with you.

CALL) Lift up your hearts.

RESP) We lift them to the Lord.

CALL) Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

RESP) It is right to give our thanks and praise.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name, Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, On earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, And forgive us our trespasses As we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, But deliver us from evil, For thine is the kingdom, And the power, And the glory, Forever and ever, Amen.

AGNUS DEI

ELW Setting 9, p. 201

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

COMMUNION SONGS

Plowshare Prayer | Spencer LaJoye | Raquel Krach, vocalist

Come Light Our Hearts | Sandra McCracken



If you would like one-on-one, personal prayer at this time, we invite you to pray with today's Healing Minister on the north side of the room/wall facing East 1st Ave.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Rev. William Stomski

GOD'S WORK, OUR HANDS

Pr. Ben Colahan

SENDING SONG

ACS 949 | *Keep Your Lamps Trimmed and Burning*

1 Keep your lamps trimmed and burn - ing, keep your
2 Dark - er mid - night lies be - fore us, dark - er
3 Lo, the morn - ing soon is break - ing, lo, the
4 Keep your lamps trimmed and burn - ing, keep your

lamps trimmed and burn - ing, keep your lamps
mid - night lies be - fore us, dark - er mid - night
morn - ing soon is break - ing, lo, the morn - ing
lamps trimmed and burn - ing, keep your lamps

trimmed and burn - ing, for this work's al - most done.
lies be - fore us, for this work's al - most done.
soon is break - ing, for this work's al - most done.
trimmed and burn - ing, for this work's al - most done.

Refrain
Chil-dren, don't grow wea - ry; chil-dren, don't grow wea - ry;
chil-dren, don't grow wea - ry, for this work's al - most done.

Text: African American spiritual
Music: KEEP YOUR LAMPS, African American spiritual

BLESSING

Pr. Ben Colahan

DISMISSAL

Rev. William Stomski

CALL) Go in peace. Keep awake.

RESP) Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Prelude on 'Mendelssohn' | David Willcocks

Giving at Faith Lutheran



You can use this QR code by opening the camera on your phone and focusing on the image. A prompt from "tithe.ly" will pop up. Click it and you will be sent to our giving page. You can also access our giving page at ChioFaithLutheran.org/Give. Cash or checks can be placed in the offering plate during service or dropped off at the office. You may donate to our General Fund which supports our budget (staff salaries, operating costs, repairs and maintenance) or you may give to any designated fund like the capital campaign, visiting musicians, or youth and children.

MINISTERS: THE PEOPLE OF FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH

Presiding Minister: Pr. Ben Colahan

Assisting Minister: Rev. William Stomski

On-Site Council Member: Faye Johnson

On-Site Equipping Minister: Kate Ory

Communion: Jill Bentler, Linda Greer-Wegener, Vickie James (shepherd), Janice Napier, and Sharon Prindle

Communion Clean-up: Jon Stafford

Ushers: Dave Barnum & Molly Barnum

Lector: Craig Fellner

Welcome Table: Vickie James and Cheri Sandberg

Coffee Hour: Dave Rush and Janine Rush

A/V Desk: Malinda Ard, Marquez Edwards, and Kai Pappani-McDermott

Healing Minister: Maureen Hopson

Offering Counters: Dawn Stafford and Lynette Stensrud

Parking Lot: Molly Barnum, Rick Bentler, Oscar Sample, and Suzanne Steel

Musicians: FLC Contemporary Team and Raquel Krach, vocalist

Cantor: Luke Nicolay

INVITING SILENCE

Welcome to silence on Mondays and Wednesdays.

*You are invited to join us in silence on Monday mornings at 7 AM or on Wednesday mornings at 11 AM in the chapel at Faith Lutheran Church, 667 East First Avenue, Chico. We begin November 3rd and 5th. The chapel is in the office suite of our buildings. It is the room closest to the sanctuary. We invite you to **arrive several minutes early** And to come in quietly. The bell will ring on the hour, and we will sit in silence for 20 minutes, at which time the bell will ring again. At the second ringing of the bell our time together is complete. You may leave. The Wednesday 11 am meeting will be available on the [Church Zoom \(passcode 667\)](#).*

If you are interested in having conversation about what happened in the silence that will begin five minutes after the silence is done in the same space. There will be books "Inviting Silence" written by Gunilla Norris available. You may also secure that book by purchasing it online at Amazon. Welcome.

If you have questions, please call Bill Kees.

WEEKLY EVENTS

Sundays

- Worship in the Sanctuary at 9:30 a.m.
- Dungeons & Dragons (5e) on 2nd & 4th Sundays of Month, 5:00 p.m. Room 6 (Kate Ory, Malinda Ard)
- Sundays @ 5 Service in the Sanctuary at 5:00 p.m.

Mondays

- Inviting Silence at 7:00 a.m. in the chapel (*part of office wing*) (Bill Kees)
- Just Older Youth, Seniors! (JOYS) 2nd & 4th Mondays, 10:30a.m., Room 7
- Time Out for Art in Room 6 from 1-4:00 p.m. (Caryl Quinones, Sherrill Heinz)
- Adult Children of Alcoholics Meeting in Room 4 at 7:00 p.m.

Tuesdays

- Quilters in the Fellowship Hall from 10:00 AM to about 2:00 p.m. (Char Miller)
- Centering Prayer on Zoom from 4-5 p.m. (Bill Kees)
- Pastor's Bible Study on Zoom from 5-6 p.m. (Pr. Ben)

Wednesdays

- Spanish Conversation Group on Zoom at 9am (Clark Colahan)
- Inviting Silence at 11:00 a.m. in the chapel (*part of office wing*) (Bill Kees)
- Handbell Practice in the Fellowship Hall at 4:00 p.m. (Luke Nicolay)

Thursdays

- Spiritual Seekers Bible Study on 1st & 3rd Thursdays at 10:00 a.m. in Conference Room (Mary Schweder)
- Afternoon Games at 1200 Park Ave. Clubhouse from 12 to 3:00 p.m. (Elise Gladu)
- Choir Practice in the Sanctuary at 5:45 p.m. (Luke Nicolay)
- Gambler's Anonymous at 7:00 p.m. in the Conference Room
- Contemporary Music Practice in the Sanctuary at 7:15 p.m. (Luke Nicolay)
- Troop 12 in Room 7 from 6:30-8:00 p.m. (Chris Brown)

Fridays

- Men's Breakfast at Farmer's Skillet on Rio Lindo at 8:00 a.m. (Howie Stensrud)
- Bulletin Folders in the Sanctuary at 2:00 p.m. (Laurae Dunn)
- Food Bank, 1st & 3rd Fridays in the Parking Lot from 3:00-5:00 p.m. (Lisa Roehling)

SPECIAL EVENTS

Funeral for Bill Augros, Tuesday, December 2 at 1:00 p.m. A rootbeer float reception will be held in the fellowship hall to follow.

Advent Workshop Saturday, December 6 from 2:00-6:00 p.m. Enjoy this free, all-ages community event with chili, cornbread, warm drinks, live music and holiday crafts! Sign up to lead a craft at the back of the church.

Advent Soup Suppers & Holden Prayer, Wed. December 3, 10, 17 w/ Soup at 6pm, Service at 7pm. At 6:00 p.m. we invite you to delight in warm soup, bread, and fellowship. At 7:00 p.m. we will begin a short, 20 minute service of congregational singing based on the Biblical songs of Mary and Simeon from Luke, and Psalm 141. If you are called to bring soup or bread, please sign up at the back of the sanctuary.

ELCA World Hunger, Sunday, December 7 after Morning Worship. The ELCA supports food and education ministries around the world. Learn how your denomination is saving lives and how you can support this ministry.

Safe Space Presentations, Sun. December 7 after EVENING Worship & December 14 after MORNING worship. Faith Lutheran Church will be hosting Safe Space Winter Shelter from January 18-February 1. Learn what Safe Space is, how it operates, and the impact it has on people's lives. You will be invited to help welcome our guests through serving meals.

Parents' Night Out, December 12. We're excited to offer a special Parents' Night Out on Friday, December 12th from 4:30pm – 8:00pm! This is a great opportunity to enjoy a relaxing dinner or get some Christmas shopping done while your children have a fun, festive evening with us. We'll have holiday activities, games, and even spend some time practicing for the Christmas program. We hope this gives you a little extra breathing room during this busy season!

Lessons and Carols, Sun. Dec. 14 at 5:00 p.m. at St. John's Episcopal, 2341 Floral Ave. Come and join the choirs of St. John's and FLC as we prepare for the birth of Christ! This event is free and open to the community. We will take a free-will offering that will go to help support the music programs at St. John's Episcopal and Faith Lutheran.

Faith Lutheran Giving Tree (Last Day: Wednesday, Dec. 17). Gift tags have items requested from students and families from Rosedale Elementary School in Chico. This year's uncertainty with jobs and food will undoubtedly make our gifts even more

appreciated! Please take a tag off the tree and sign the sheet next to the tree with your tag number and name by Wed. Dec. 17.

GriefShare: Surviving the Holidays, Thursday, December 18, 4-5:30pm in Room 7. The holidays can be hard, and we are here to offer encouragement, support, and valuable tools to navigate the challenges of the season for adults who have lost a loved one.

Ember Days, Saturday, December 20, 9:30am-12pm. Ember Days are the times during the year that have come to focus on the beginning of the four seasons and the blessings of nature to say that the seasons of the year are a gift of God. We will engage practices that help us to reflect on where our life has been and how we desire to move forward. This year we will have “Ember Days in a Box.” If you are unable to attend in-person we will have kits available for you to take home. Please let us know if you would like one.

Creches & Cookies, Sunday, December 21. On Sunday, December 21, we are asking everyone to bring their favorite Nativity Scene as well as their favorite homemade holiday cookies, breads or other treats to be shared during coffee hour. Please bring your items on disposable plates. If there is a story behind your crèche, please type it up and set it in front of your display.

Children's Caroling, Sunday, December 21, Time TBD. We will meet at the church parking lot and caravan from house to house caroling to our elderly members who have trouble attending church. Prepare by practicing the classic Christmas carols with your child/ren at home. (*Deck the Halls, Jingle Bells, Joy to the World, Away in a Manger, Hark the Herald Angels Sing, Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer, We Wish you a Merry Christmas...*) Day of, bring jingle bells, glow sticks, wear festive accessories and bring plenty of snacks and water. If you have questions, please contact Beth Bradley or the church office.

Christmas Eve Pageant, Wednesday, December 24 at 4:00 PM. Kids will be performing “Heaven and Nature Sing,” a telling of the Christmas story where the whole congregation can participate too. Kids can arrive starting at 3:45 p.m. and pick out a character and costume. All children are welcome to participate!

Christmas Candlelight Service, Wednesday, December 24 at 9:00 PM. The Christmas Eve Candlelight Service is a special service centered around reading scripture and sharing communion, featuring traditional Christmas hymns, the FLC Sanctuary choir, handbell choir, and organ music in the twinkling candlelight.

Christmas Morning Service, Thursday, December 25 at 9:30 AM. A small, casual Christmas service will take place at 9:30 a.m. on Christmas Day. Pajamas welcome!

Anxiety robs us, so Jesus robs our anxiety

Inattentional Blindness: Being so focused on one thing that we fail to see something else that is obvious but unexpected.

Fear is a response to an immediate danger.

Anxiety is an ongoing worry about potential danger.

We see what we are looking for. Jesus shows us what to look for.

Jesus frees us from being protective to being productive

We don't expect to see Jesus, but Jesus shows up unexpectedly

In what ways do you put energy into feeding your fears?

If you didn't have to put your energy into being protective, how would you want to be more productive?

Where have you seen God this week?